



EASTERN HILLS & MURRAY PLAINS CATCHMENT GROUP *Inc.*

Vibrant Communities Managing the Environment for the Future

The Eastern Hills and Murray Plains Catchment Group is a **community based organisation** that has developed a Local Action Plan to address the major natural resource management issues in the area between the SE Freeway and the Sturt Highway. The group offers a range of incentives to landholders that assist in the reduction of groundwater recharge and dryland salinity, while improving the viability of farms and the biological diversity throughout the area. The group is funded through the South Australian Murray Darling Basin Natural Resource Management Board with state and federal funds.

On-ground Works Incentive Options 2011-12

<p>Perennial Pasture/Native Grass Establishment</p> <p>Perennial pasture establishment is encouraged in the Eastern Hills & Murray Plains because it is able to use rainfall all year round and therefore help to reduce recharge.</p> <p>There are a variety of perennial pastures that can be grown successfully in this area. These can be recommended by your local agronomist. In salt affected and waterlogging prone areas</p> <p>Funding for establishment.....up to \$80/ha Funding for fencing.....up to \$1500/km</p>	<p>Local native species windbreaks & corridors</p> <p>Planting native species windbreaks is a good way of incorporating native vegetation into your farm to reduce ground water recharge, provide protection for stock and crops, create habitat for native birds and animals and reduce spray drift.</p> <p>Windbreaks generally provide protection for a distance into the paddock of 12 to 15 times their height. For the most effective protection, they should be planted at right angles to the most damaging winds and should include a range of local tree, shrub and groundcover species. Windbreaks should be planted using a minimum width of 15 M, with benefits increasing with width.</p> <p>Funding for establishment..... up to \$600/ha* Funding for fencing.....up to \$1500/km</p>
<p>Block Fodder Shrub Establishment</p> <p>Options for fodder shrubs include salt bush, allocasuarina and some species of acacia. Old Man salt bush has proven to be the most popular option so far. It is a deep-rooted perennial that is suited to areas receiving less than 375mm of annual rainfall. It grows well on a range of soil types including deep sands and areas that are marginal for cropping.</p> <p>The benefits of growing salt bush include reducing ground water recharge, reducing the risk of erosion, filling the Autumn feed gap, feed during drought conditions, better utilisation of marginal land and wind protection for stock.</p> <p>Funding for establishment.....up to \$80/ha Funding for fencing.....up to \$1500/km</p>	<p>Local Native Species Blocks</p> <p>Blocks of native local native vegetation provide excellent groundwater recharge control, erosion protection, shelter for stock and crops and habitat for native birds and animals. Species established should be local provenance to ensure maximum benefit in terms of biodiversity and long term viability.</p> <p>Block plantings are ideal for revegetating unproductive areas such as light sandy ridges, low lying saline areas, rocky outcrops and on roadsides and other cleared public land. Large areas can be established quickly and easily by direct seeding.</p> <p>Funding for establishmentup to \$600/ha* Funding for fencing.....up to \$3000/km</p>
<p>Watercourse Fencing</p> <p>Fencing watercourses to exclude stock reduces erosion and saline recharge, especially when combined with the establishment of alternative water points. Establishment of native vegetation along watercourses can provide the benefits of a windbreak, potentially reducing spray drift while creating habitat for native birds and animals. It provides protection against erosion, reduces turbidity while improving water quality</p> <p>Funding for fencing..... up to \$3000/km Funding for revegetation up to \$600/ha* Alternative water point \$600 each</p>	<p>Protecting Remnant Vegetation</p> <p>Protecting and enhancing remnant vegetation is the most important action in arresting the decline of native vegetation in the Eastern Hills & Murray Plains. Healthy remnant vegetation is vital for supporting and ensuring the survival of populations of native plants, birds and animals.</p> <p>Although protecting large healthy areas is given priority, smaller degraded sites will greatly improve with the exclusion of stock.</p> <p>The level of funding for fencing these areas is based on a biodiversity inspection which considers the areas size, shape, condition and the presence of any rare or endangered plants or animals.</p> <p>Funding for fencing.....up to \$3000/km* Funding for enhancing.....up to \$600/ha</p>

Approved fencing consists of five strand wire or equivalent cyclone type mesh with posts at 20m spacing and spacers where appropriate. Corners are to be boxed and strained and change of direction not to exceed 2m without a strainer assembly. Electric fencing is acceptable where it consists of at least two live wires plus two earth wires.

* **Revegetation rates applied per area for direct seeding, per plant for tubestock**

The **Eastern Hills & Murray Plains Catchment Group** are currently seeking expressions of interest from individual landholders and community groups who wish to undertake an on-ground works project in our region. The on-ground works activities aim to address the priority issues identified in our Local Action Plan.

Interested landholders or community groups should contact **Steve Coombe or Harry Seager** at the EHMPGC Office, Murray Bridge on **8531 2077**.

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